

Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission

Minutes

September 16, 2026

7:00 p.m. Kallsen Center

The September 16, 2026 meeting was held in the Kallsen Center and called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chairman David Niemeyer.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

- Recognize Commission members present: Chairman David Niemeyer; Secretary/Commissioner Roxane Tyssen; Commissioners: Katy Brand, John Gordon, Lucas Hawley - vice chairman,
- Staff Liaison: Walker Steinke
- Absent: Commissioner: George Rohde (excused); Trustee Liaison - William Brady
- Guests: Isam Kiswami, Alan Doorneveerd

The Commission welcomed our guests.

Approval of Minutes:

- The August 2026 minutes were read, Katy Brand made the motion to approve, Lucas Hawley seconded, all approved. The minutes were passed.

Sister City Updates:

Büdingen, Germany Update:

- Roxane Tyssen has not spoken with anyone regarding setting up a Teams/Zoom call.
 - Discussions on when the commissioners are free.
- Katy Brand has no updated information on the 2027 Garden Show but she has spoken to Marcus. He will get back to her once they have some solid plans for the event. In their discussions he did not mention a date to set up a meeting.
- Marcus Gerlach showed interest in having the potters from Opishinia come to Büdingen for the Kulturnacht festival or for the Christmas market.

Mallow, Ireland Update:

- Katy Brand stated that her friend who goes to Ireland to teach American Bluegrass music is waiting on some direction from us.
 - He normally does his classes in larger cities and only travels there when he “feels” like it or if there is an event going on.

Nowy Sącz, Poland:

- Katy Brand has offered to reach out to Raddic, Roxane’s contact information (emails) is no longer valid.

Prospective Sister Cities:

Opishinia, Ukraine:

- Dave Niemeyer stated that we are working a date to set up a meeting to start to work on how to have the potters to be able to come here or to do something virtual with them. We are waiting on dates from the Cities4Cities team.

Jordan, Aqaba:

- The Counsel General of the Jordanian embassy, Mr. Ishan Sweiss was unable to attend this evening. We will reschedule with him.
- Isam Kiswami offered his insights on the cities that Mr. Sweiss suggested as alternates to Aqaba which were very helpful.
 - The commission discussed Jordan in general and what will happen when we finally get to travel there.

Old Business:

- Nothing to report.

New and Continuing Business:

- America's 250th anniversary
 - The jotform is ready to roll out. We need to meet with marketing to determine how we will roll it out.
- Katy Brand mentioned that the library may be able to help us with the scanning for historical photos the commission has.

Public comments/Announcements:

- There was no public for comments.

Adjourned:

- David Niemeyer asked for a motion to adjourn, Katy Brand made the motion, Lucas Hawley seconded, all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Kallsen Center.